

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GERING CITY COUNCIL, AUGUST 10, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of Gering, Nebraska was held in open session on August 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Gering City Hall, 1025 P Street, Gering, NE. Present were Mayor Ewing and Councilmembers Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. Also present were City Administrator Pat Heath, City Clerk Kathy Welfl, and City Attorney Jim Ellison. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Star-Herald, the designated method of giving notice, on June 27, 2026. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ewing called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated that a quorum of the Council was present and City business could be conducted.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Excuse Council Member absence

Motion by Councilmember Shields to approve the absence of Councilmember Kinsey from the July 27, 2026 regular City Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Wiedeman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14

Mayor Ewing stated: As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available copies of the current Open Meetings Act in the meeting room. Printed versions of the Open Meetings Act are available on the counter by the press corps. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Mayor. As required by State Law, additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and the Council determines that the matter requires emergency action.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Items under the Consent Agenda are proposed for adoption by one action for all items unless any member of Council requests that an item be considered separately.)

1. Approve minutes of the July 27, 2026 regular City Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve the May, 2026 Financial Report
4. File for record letter of support for the continuation of SkyWest Airlines as the Essential Air Service Provider for Western Nebraska Regional Airport in Scottsbluff

Claims 7-29-26 to 8-11-26

A & A PORTA POTTIES \$1,885.00, ACE HARDWARE \$645.67, ACE IRRIGATION AND MANUFACTUR \$985.24, ACUSHNET COMPANY \$1,909.56, ADIDAS AMERICA, INC \$62.10, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$787.94, AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP. \$607.66, ANITA'S GREENSCAPING INC \$2,126.00, AT&T MOBILITY \$1,684.29, B & S RASK GRILL \$616.23, BENEFIT PLANS, INC \$680.50, BENZEL PEST CONTROL \$76.71, BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$1,053.87, BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC \$1,856.07, BRANDED BILLS \$1,677.56, BROWN'S SHOE FIT COMPANY \$172.00, CALLAWAY GOLF COMPANY \$5,625.00, CAMPSPOT \$871.14, CENGAGE LEARNING/GAGE \$29.60, CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, INC \$168.34, CHRISTOHER HANSEN \$25.00, CITY OF GERING \$482.50, COLUMN SOFTWARE, PBC \$230.06, CONTRACTORS MATERIALS, INC. \$1,103.85, CROELL, INC \$2,015.00, DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPAN \$120.40, DOCU-SHRED LLC \$70.00, DOOLEY OIL \$1,241.33, DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY \$8,256.07, EAKES INC \$67.92, ECOLAB \$169.01, ELLISON, KOVARIK & TURMAN LAW \$10,260.00, ESI \$1,961.32, FASTENAL COMPANY \$221.18, FAT BOYS TIRE & AUTO \$2,998.15, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA \$9,801.50, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA - POLICE \$584.00, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC. \$763.63, FRANK PARTS COMPANY \$182.13, FRASER STRYKER PC LLO \$575.00, FYR-TEK, INC. \$1,713.40, GAGE COLE \$191.50, GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY \$152.98, GRACE INDUSTRIES, LLC \$185,411.17, GRAINGER \$88.51, GREEN HEART WINDOW CLEANING \$78.00, GROUND UP CONSTRUCTION & CLEAN \$5,382.50, HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS \$179.97, HAWKINS, INC. \$3,264.94, HDR ENGINEERING, INC. \$2,792.75, HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES \$180.83, HULLINGER GLASS & LOCKS, INC. \$2,561.17, IACP \$525.00, IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC. \$562.43, INDEPENDENT PLUMBING & HEATING \$428.52, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES \$748.51, INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICE, LLC \$285.00, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE \$65,223.28, INTRALINKS, INC. \$7,561.20, IRBY TOOL & SAFETY \$5,321.26, J & A TRAFFIC PRODUCTS \$769.75, JARED SHEPARD \$736.40, JC GOLF ACCESSORIES \$621.63, JEO CONSULTING GROUP \$4,312.50, JIRDON AGRI CHEMICALS, INC \$1,627.68, JOHN HANCOCK USA \$21,027.38, JOHN HANCOCK USA FIRE \$1,075.74, JOHN HANCOCK USA POLICE \$12,281.94, JOHNSON CASHWAY CO. \$65.35, LAWSON PRODUCTS \$123.20, LEAGUE OF NE. MUNICIPALITIES \$1,192.00, LEE ENTERPRISES \$2,218.93, LEGACY COOPERATIVE \$11,714.40, LOGOZ LLC \$1,628.00, LONG DRAW PRODUCTIONS \$1,400.00, LOST RIVER SAND & GRAVEL, INC \$3,616.65, M.C. SCHAFF & ASSOCIATES, INC. \$4,876.50, MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC \$206.52, MANUEL BARRAZA \$8,200.00, MARK CHRISMAN TRUCKING \$47,630.99, MENARDS \$1,053.82, MIDWEST CONNECT \$4,398.16, MOBIUS COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY \$30.00, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NE \$456,254.54, MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. OF NE. \$3,807.69, MUTUAL OF OMAHA \$5,907.33, NC CHILD

SUPPORT CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS \$337.84, NEBRASKA CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE \$714.93, NEBRASKA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AND EN \$18,126.83, NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOC. \$550.00, NIPPON SANSO MATHESON TRI-GAS INC \$110.90, NKC TIRE \$2,155.10, NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC \$160.37, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC \$100.38, OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/OLD WEST BALLOON FEST \$2,500.00, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORE \$217.62, PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE, INC. \$2,741.00, PANHANDLE GEOTECHNICAL & \$1,348.00, POWERPLAN OIB \$3,651.85, PROTEX CENTRAL, INC. \$175.00, PT HOSE AND BEARING \$17.15, QUADIENT POSTAGE FUNDING \$1,659.97, RAPID FIRE PROTECTION \$394.96, RDJ SPECIALTIES, INC. \$280.38, REGIONAL WEST HEALTH SERVICES \$345.00, RIVERSIDE DISCOVERY CENTER \$10,000.00, RIVERSTONE BANK \$629.74, RYAN'S WELDING LLC \$330.00, SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC. \$1,209.42, SCOTTS BLUFF AREA VISITORS BUREAU \$70.60, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY - WING \$30.00, SCOTTSBLUFF-GERING UNITED WAY \$216.34, SIMON CONTRACTORS \$3,098.58, SISTER BAY FURNITURE CO \$2,622.00, TEAM CHEVROLET \$600.00, TERESA TOSH \$26,907.05, TERRY MILLER \$969.00, THE TORO COMPANY \$630.00, TINA WORTHMAN \$380.67, TRANSWEST \$2,894.59, USA BLUE BOOK \$1,219.95, UTILITY BILL REFUNDS \$328.43, UTILITIES SECTION \$5,825.00, VALLEY AUTO LOCATORS LLC \$992.74, VERIZON CONNECT \$25.90, VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC \$553.92, WESTERN COOPERATIVE COMPANY \$8,497.09, WESTERN PATHOLOGY CONSULTANTS \$738.00, WESTERN UNITED ELECTRIC \$526.12, WYOMING FIRST AID & SAFETY \$80.11, TOTALS \$1,049,041.08

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilmember Shields. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Consider approving Keno Fund requests forwarded to Council by the Gering Keno Committee:

- **Scottsbluff/Gering Lions Club, \$5,520**
- **Gering Merchants Association, \$14,800**

Committee Chairman, Darrell Bentley, was present to answer questions. Councilmember Gillen asked Mr. Bentley, when the committee was interviewing, if the applicants had plans on asking other organizations for funds such as the Occ Tax Grant Fund Committee. Mr. Bentley replied that the committee did look at some of the things they've been asked to support; some of the applicants have been double-dipping. As part of their next meeting agenda, they're going to discuss some of the requests for funds, and also discuss what is best for community betterment. He didn't want to spring it on the committee at this last meeting; he wanted to give them time to think about it and come up with ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve Keno Fund requests as presented which is \$5,520 for the Scottsbluff/Gering Lions Club, and \$14,800 for the Gering Merchants Association. Second by Councilmember Kinsey. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving a request for a Recreation Committee meeting – Agenda item: 1.) Consider recommendation to Council regarding a 2027 summer baseball team at Oregon Trail Park Stadium

Motion by Councilmember Wiedeman to approve a request for a Recreation Committee meeting with agenda item: 1.) Consider recommendation to Council regarding a 2027 summer baseball team at Oregon Trail Park Stadium. Second by Councilmember Shields. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

3. Consider approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an Amendment to Interlocal Agreement Establishing the Western Nebraska Regional Land Bank (name change to Western Panhandle Regional Land Bank)

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Amendment to Interlocal Agreement Establishing the Western Nebraska Regional Land Bank – the amendment is a name change to Western Panhandle Regional Land Bank. Second by Councilmember Gillen. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Consider approving Resolution 8-26-1 regarding the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) FY26/27 Renewal

League Association of Risk Management 2026-2027 Renewal Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 8-26-1

WHEREAS, The City of Gering is a member of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM);

WHEREAS, section 8.10 of the Interlocal Agreement for the Establishment and Operation of the League Association of Risk Management provides that a member may voluntarily terminate its participation in LARM by written notice of termination given to LARM and the Nebraska Director of Insurance at least 90 days prior to the desired termination given to and that members may agree to extend the required termination notice beyond 90 days in order to realize reduced excess coverage costs, stability of contribution rates and efficiency in operation of LARM; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of LARM has adopted a plan to provide contribution credits in consideration of certain agreements by members of LARM as provided in the attached letter.

BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the City of Gering, Nebraska, in consideration of the contribution credits provided under the LARM Board's plan, agrees to:

- ☒ Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2029. **(180 day and 3 year commitment; 5% discount)**
- ☐ Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2028. **(180 day and 2 year commitment; 4% discount)**
- ☐ Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2027. **(180 day notice only; 2% discount)**
- ☐ Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2029. **(90 day notice and 3 year commitment only; 2% discount)**
- ☐ Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2028. **(2 year commitment only; 1%)**
- ☐ Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2026. **(90 day Notice only)**

Adopted this 10th day of August, 2026.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

ATTEST: _____

Title: _____

Administrator Heath explained that this resolution is for the FY26/27 LARM (League Association of Risk Management) renewal. The City's overall increase was approximately 12%. Property was up roughly 2% due to inflation, and property and content values. Vehicles are down 7%; this percentage fluctuates based on vehicles added and removed throughout the fiscal year. Liability insurance has increased 6%, due to an increase in net operating expenses. Workers Compensation increased roughly 29%, due to claims as well as a settlement in 2025. He stated that staff is recommending approval of Option 1 which provides a 5% discount with a 180 termination notice and a three-year commitment.

Motion by Councilmember Gillen to approve Resolution 8-26-1 regarding the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) FY26/27 Renewal. Second by Councilmember Cecil. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

2. Consider approving Resolution 8-26-2 establishing the method for providing reasonable notice of City Council meetings, public hearings, and special meetings pursuant to State Statute 84-1411

RESOLUTION NO. 8-26-2

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE METHOD FOR PROVIDING REASONABLE NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

WHEREAS Pursuant to State Statute 84-1411, the City Council of the City of Gering shall determine the method of providing reasonable advance publicized quarterly notice of regular City Council meetings, and the method of providing reasonable advance notice of monthly meetings, public hearings, and special meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GERING, NEBRASKA THAT:

1. **Monthly Notice of Regular Meetings** - Notice of regular City Council meetings, including date, time, and location, shall be posted on the City of Gering website.
2. **Quarterly Notice of Regular Meetings** - Notice of regular City Council meeting dates, time, and location shall be publicized every three months in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, the Official Newspaper of the City. In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the City Council (or designee) will (i) post such notice on the City's website at gering.org, (ii) request the newspaper submit a post on a statewide website - established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (iii) post such notice in three conspicuous public places in such City's jurisdiction.
3. **Notice of Public Hearings** - Notice of public hearings to be conducted by the Gering City Council shall be published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, the Official Newspaper of the City, within the established number of days prior to such hearings, as required by law.
4. **Notice of Special Meetings** - Reasonable notice of special meetings to be held by the Gering City Council shall be publicized in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, the Official Newspaper of the City; as well as posted on the City's website at gering.org.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of _____, 2026

Kent Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen J. Welfl, City Clerk (SEAL)

Clerk Welfl explained that the Nebraska Legislature amended the Open Meetings Act again this year with changes taking effect on July 18. Among several other amendments, the statute requires that notice of regular meetings be publicized in the official newspaper every three months. However, notice of monthly meetings can now be posted on the City's website or published in the paper; previously they were published in the paper (and posted on the website). It's required that all public bodies consider the method for giving notice of monthly meetings; there are numerous public bodies of the City of Gering that will make this determination, as well. If approved, this resolution provides that monthly City Council meetings will be posted on the City's website; this will save the City a little money. Special meetings and public hearings, however, will still be published in the Star-Herald as before. Standing Committee meetings will be advertised in the paper as they are scheduled.

Motion by Councilmember Morrison to approve Resolution 8-26-2 establishing the method for providing reasonable notice of City Council meetings, public hearings, and special meetings pursuant to State Statute 84-1411. Second by Councilmember Weideman. There was no discussion. Mayor Ewing called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: (Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.) None.

OPEN COMMENT: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only. None

ADJOURN:

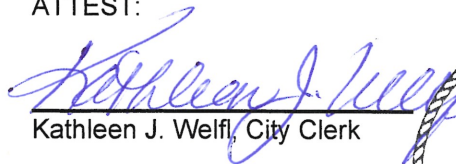
Motion by Councilmember Gillen to adjourn. Second by Councilmember O'Neal. There was no discussion. The Mayor called for the vote. "AYES": Shields, Gillen, Cecil, Kinsey, Wiedeman, O'Neal, Morrison, Jackson. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



Kent E. Ewing, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathleen J. Welf, City Clerk

